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Rosalie A. Centeno
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In the Application of: Dr. Oskar Wack

Ser. No.: 10/008,633

Filed: December 7, 2001

For: METHOD FOR THE LIQUID CLEANING OF OBJECTS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56, Applicant wishes to call the attention of the Examiner to the following references:

- 1) WO 00/50555
- 2) WO 97/32963
- 3) US 5,741,368
- 4) US 5,610,132
- 5) XP-002193568

Reference 1, WO 00/50555, discloses that the invention relates to a method for the wet cleaning of objects which uses a cleaning fluid consisting of water and an organic solvent. In a defined range of concentrations and temperatures the cleaning fluid and the water form a solution and outside said ranges present a miscibility gap. For wet cleaning the cleaning fluid is in the state of the miscibility gap and contains the solvent at a concentration

which at the temperature prevailing during wet cleaning is greater than the concentration at which the miscibility gap begins when the solvent is added to water.

Reference 2, WO 97/32963, discloses that the invention concerns a method of cleaning objects, according to which vapors produced by heating a liquid which has cleaning activity are brought into contact with the objects to be cleaned. The method is characterized in that an azeotropic preparation in the form of a mixture of water and at least one further component having molecules with hydrophilic and lipophilic groups is used as the liquid having cleaning activity. The further component(s) and the water form an azeotrope during the phase transition from the liquid to the vapor phase.

References 3-5 are in the English language and therefore need no further discussion as to their relevance.

Copies of the listed documents are submitted herewith along with the form PTO-1449.

It is respectfully requested that any fees required and not enclosed herewith or any shortages in any fees be charged to Deposit Account 02-1653.

Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures